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9 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senate Armed Services Committee Staff
Re White House Announcement on Intelligence Community

1. In discussing the above subject this afternoon with Messrs. Braswell, Woolsey, Goldsmith and Ticer, of the Committee staff, it appeared that there has been a number of questions raised by Committee members regarding the true purposes and implications regarding the recent White House announcement on the intelligence community. From within the Committee, but more especially from the Foreign Relations Committee, there seemed to be an impression that the Director had been "kicked upstairs" and thereby isolated, so that the running of CIA, like the other intelligence agencies, would be placed in the hands of trusted Administration partisans. The argument was also being made, especially by Senator Symington, that most of the active intelligence machinery of the Government would be in the hands of professional military men.

2. I tried to refute these contentions, pointing out the long-standing concern within the Administration and in the Congress over the untidy financial affairs in the intelligence community and the need for a fully coordinated national intelligence budget. I said I thought this was certainly an adequate explanation for the President's move. I added that the Director had always worn two hats and that certainly the present Director showed no signs that he was going to relinquish his authority over CIA.

3. Mr. Braswell thought it might be useful to have the Director talk personally to Senator Symington and try to straighten him out on the matter. I asked whether an early Subcommittee session for this purpose might be a good idea. The others agreed, and then we discussed the possibility of a joint session of our two Subcommittees, although we recognized that in view of the personalities involved it was doubtful this could be brought about. Mr. Woolsey noted that the White House announcement dealt with matters beyond CIA and wondered whether the Director's appearance before the full Senate Armed Services Committee to explain his concept of his new role might not be useful. I said I couldn't speak for the

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Director on any of this but I doubted that, in any event, he would want to undertake such a meeting until the situation had cleared up a bit. It was agreed that I would raise this possibility with the Director before any of the staff raised it with Senator Stennis.

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